

## US Army Corps of Engineers Albuquerque District

## **PUBLIC NOTICE**

Permit Application No.: SPA-2009-00342-SCO

Project Name: Sand Creek Channel Stabilization at

Academy Boulevard

Applicant: City of Colorado Springs

Waterway: Sand Creek
Public Notice Date: June 12, 2009
Comment Due Date: June July 3, 2009
CE Contact Phone: 719-543-8102

Reply To:

Southern Colorado
Regulatory Office
US Army Corps of Engineers, Albuquerque District
200 South Santa Fe Avenue, Suite 301
Pueblo, CO 81003-4270

## PERMIT APPLICATION UNDER SECTION 404 OF THE CLEAN WATER ACT (33 USC 1344)

<u>Summary of Proposed Project</u>: We are requesting public comment on the following project before the above comment due date. The application is for a permit to place/discharge dredged and/or fill material as Sand Creek Channel Stabilization in Sand Creek in Colorado Springs, El Paso, Colorado. The project will include a grouted riprap drop structure, channel fill, outfall maintenance, and bridge maintenance. Approximately .16 acres of wetlands and 1.51 acres of waters of the U.S. will be filled with riprap and clean fill. Details of the proposed project are provided below.

Name of Applicant: City of Colorado Springs, Public Works/City Engineering, 30 South Nevada Avenue, Suite 403, P.O. Box 1575, Mail Code 435, Colorado Springs, CO 80901-1575, Steve Jacobsen, 719-385-5414

<u>Location</u>: The project is located on Academy Boulevard over Sand Creek in Colorado Springs, El Paso, Colorado, Section 26 and 27, Township 14S, Range 66W (38.799483° N Latitude, -104.757644° W Longitude).

<u>Description of Work</u>: To construct a grouted riprap drop structure about 60 feet in length structure downstream of the bridge; add 3300 cubic yards of riprap for bridge pier protection, riprap for outfall improvements, and add 6400 cubic yards of fill to Sand Creek between the newly constructed drop structure and the upstream drop structure to establish the desired channel grade. In addition to these permanent fills, the applicant will use temporary fills to dewater the work area and for construction access. The total area of permanent fills in waters of the U.S. is 1.51 acres. Work is expected to begin in summer 2009 and be completed in winter 2009.

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CESPA-RD SPA-2009-00342-SCO. <u>Purpose and Need</u>: The stated purpose of the project is to perform channel stabilization and bridge maintenance meet safety standards. The need for the project is the ongoing channel degradation and it negative impacts to the bridge.

<u>Mitigation</u>: 0.16 acres of willow riparian wetlands will be impacted by the project. The project was designed to avoid removing trees and to have the smallest footprint possible. All wetland impacts will be compensated at a 1:1 ratio within the project area

<u>Plans and Data</u>: Drawings showing the location of the work site and other data are enclosed with this notice. If additional information is desired, it may be obtained from the applicant, or from:

## Diana Humphreys

U.S. Army Corps of Engineers Southern Colorado Regulatory Office 200 South Santa Fe Avenue, Suite 301 Pueblo, CO 81003-4270 719-543-8102

Fax No. 719-543-9475

Statement of Findings: The District Engineer has consulted the National Register of Historic Places and no properties listed in the Register are present at the site of the proposed construction. Consultation with the Colorado State Historic Preservation Office (SHPO) has not revealed any pending nominations. This constitutes the extent of cultural resource investigations by the District Engineer. It is possible, however, that presently unknown archeological, scientific, prehistoric, or historic data may be inadvertently lost or destroyed by the work accomplished under the requested permit. In the event that cultural resources are found, the SHPO will be contacted for advice on the appropriate action to be taken.

The following is a list of endangered (E) and threatened (T) species and/or critical habitat (CH) for El Paso, Colorado:

Black-footed ferret (<u>Mustela nigripes</u>, E), Greenback cutthroat trout (<u>Oncorhynchus clarki stomias</u>, T), Least tern (interior population) (<u>Sternula antillarum</u>, E), Mexican spotted owl (<u>Strix occidentalis lucida</u>, T), Pallid sturgeon (<u>Scaphirhynchus albus</u>, E), Piping plover (<u>Charadrius melodus</u>, T), Preble's meadow jumping mouse (<u>Zapus hudsonius preblei</u>, T), Ute ladies'-tresses orchid (<u>Spiranthes diluvialis</u>, T), Whooping crane (<u>Grus Americana</u>, E)

Our preliminary review indicates this project will not impact any threatened or endangered species or critical habitat.

The applicant has applied to the Colorado Department of Public Health and Environment for certification that this work is in compliance with applicable State water quality standards. The applicant is responsible for obtaining all other required Federal, state, and local authorizations for this work.

In accordance with environmental procedures and documentation required by the National Environmental Policy Act of 1969, an environmental assessment will be prepared for this project. Upon completion, the assessment may be seen at the U.S. Army Corps of

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CESPA-RD SPA-2009-00342-SCO. Engineers, Albuquerque District Office, at the address given above.

Comment: Any comments concerning this project should be received by the District Engineer no later than July 3, 2009. Comments received after the end of the Public Notice comment period will not be considered. However, more time may be given if a request, with a valid reason, is received prior to the suspense date. The Corps of Engineers is soliciting comments from the public; Federal, state, and local agencies and officials; Indian Tribes; and other interested parties in order to consider and evaluate the impacts of this proposed activity. Any comments received will be considered by the Corps of Engineers to determine whether to issue, modify, condition, or deny a permit for this proposal. To make this decision, comments are used to assess impacts on endangered species, historic properties, water quality, general environmental effects, and the other public interest factors listed below. Comments are used in the preparation of an Environmental Assessment and/or an Environmental Impact Statement pursuant to the National Environmental Policy Act. Comments are also used to determine the need for a public hearing and to determine the overall public interest of the proposed activity.

The decision whether to issue a permit will be based on an evaluation of the probable impact, including cumulative impacts, of the proposed activity on the public interest. That decision will reflect the national concern for both protection and utilization of important resources. The benefit which reasonably may be expected to accrue from the proposal must be balanced against its reasonably foreseeable detriments. The evaluation of the impact of this activity will include application of the guidelines promulgated by the Administrator, EPA, under authority of Section 404(b) of the Clean Water Act. All factors relevant to the proposal and the cumulative effects will be considered; among these are conservation, economics, aesthetics, general environmental concerns, wetlands, historic properties, fish and wildlife values, flood hazards, floodplain values, land use, navigation, shore erosion and accretion, recreation, water supply and conservation, water quality, energy needs, safety, food and fiber production, mineral needs, considerations of property ownership, and, in general, the needs and welfare of the people.

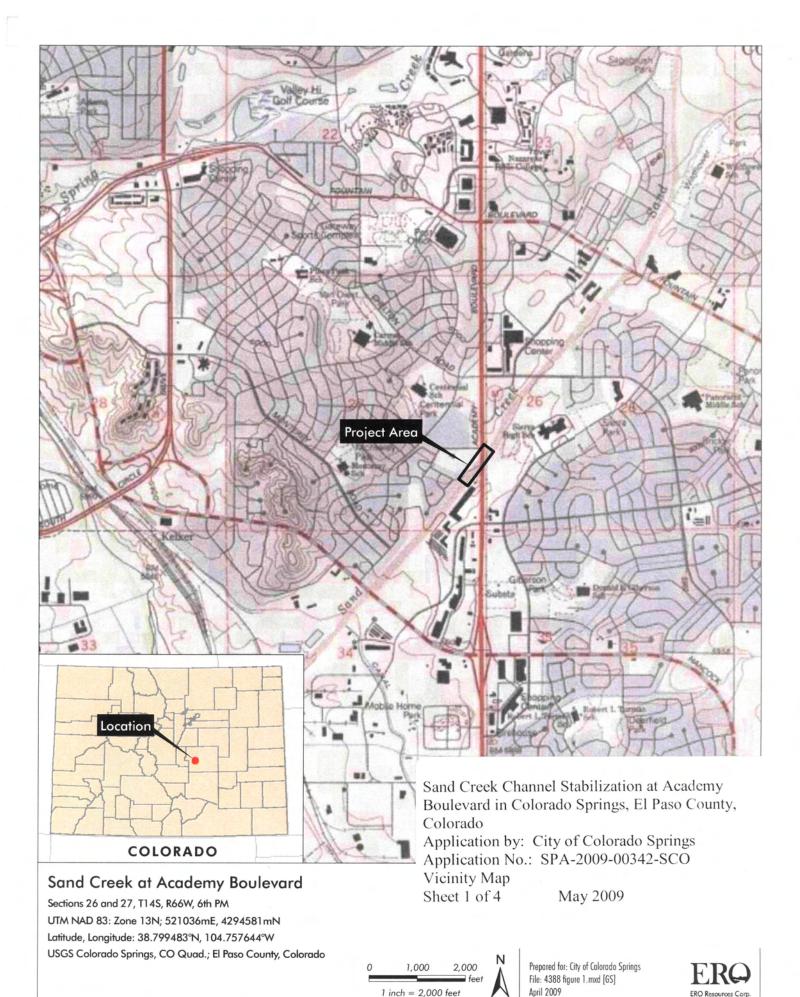
If the District Engineer determines that the project complies with the 404(b)(1) guidelines, he will grant the permit unless issuance would be contrary to the public interest.

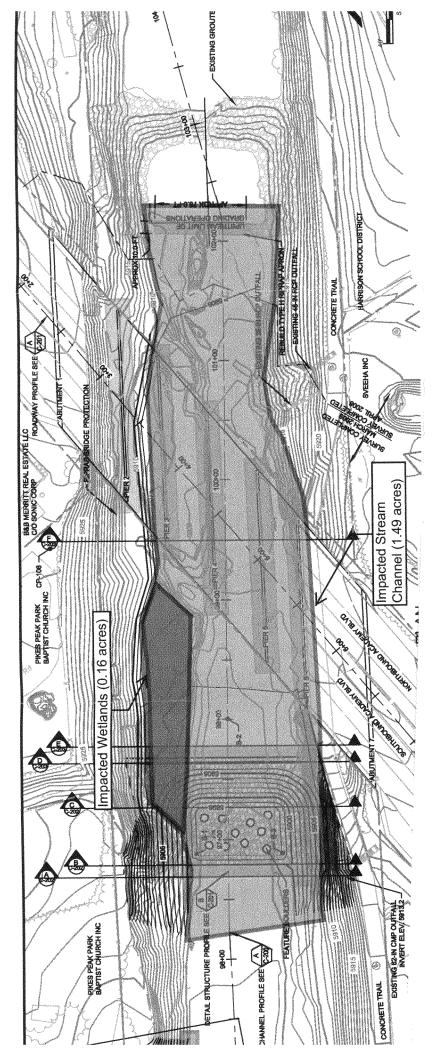
Any person may request a public hearing. The request must be submitted, in writing, to the District Engineer within 21 days of the date of this notice and must clearly set forth the reasons for holding a public hearing.

Kimberly M. Colloton Lieutenant Colonel, U.S. Army District Commander

Enclosure

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Sand Creek Channel Stabilization at Academy Boulevard in Colorado Springs, El Paso County,

Colorado

Application by: City of Colorado Springs Application No.: SPA-2009-00342-SCO

Plan View

Sheet 2 of 4 May 2009

